

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, lines 5-16 of the specification as already amended on June 27, 2000 (see Transmittal form paragraph 3) please replace the paragraph beginning "This application is a continuation of co-pending..." with the following paragraph:

B<sup>1</sup> This application is a division of application no. 08/987,237, filed December 9, 1997 currently issued as patent number 6,107,547, which is a continuation of application Serial Number 08/319,176 filed October 6, 1994 (abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial Number 08/132,334 filed October 6, 1993 (abandoned), the disclosures of application Serial Numbers 08/132,334 and 08/319,176 are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1-7, 11-13, and 16-20 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 8, 14, and 15 and to read as follows:

8 (amended). A transgenic plant having a gene construct comprising a nucleic acid encoding a nitrogen assimilation/metabolism enzyme operably linked to a plant promoter so that the nitrogen assimilation/metabolism enzyme is ectopically overexpressed in the transgenic plant, and the transgenic plant exhibits:

- B<sup>2</sup>
- i) faster rate of growth,
  - ii) greater fresh or dry weight at maturation,
  - iii) greater fruit or seed yield,
  - iv) greater total plant nitrogen content,
  - v) greater fruit or seed nitrogen content,
  - vi) greater free amino acid content in the whole plant,
  - vii) greater free amino acid content in the fruit or seed,
  - viii) greater protein content in seed or fruit, or
  - ix) greater protein content in a vegetative tissue,